

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5503
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S E C R E T KINGSTON 2706

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR A: WHITE HOUSE FOR MRS. MARY HOYT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, OVIP, JM, (MRS. CARTER)

SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S VISIT: BIO DATA ON KEY JAMAICANS WHO
WILL MEET MRS. CARTER AT MAY 30 JAMAICA HOUSE LUNCHEON

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING RICHARD FLETCHER, MINISTER
OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE VIVIAN BLAKE, MINISTER OF NATIONAL
MOBILIZATION D.K. DUNCAN AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR WOMEN'S
AFFAIRS CARMEN MCGREGOR WILL ATTEND PM MANLEY'S LUNCHEON IN
HONOR OF MRS. CARTER ON MAY 30. BIO DATA HAVE ALREADY BEEN
PROVIDED ON FLETCHER AND MANLEY. FOLLOWING ARE UPDATED BIO
SKETCHES ON DUNCAN, BLAKE, AND MCGREGOR.

2. D. K. DUNCAN, MINISTER OF NATIONAL MOBILIZATION. DONALD
KEITH DUNCAN WAS BORN ABOUT 1935 IN BROWN'S TOWN, JAMAICA.
HE ATTENDED MCGILL UNIVERSITY, DATES UNKNOWN, IN CANADA
WHERE HE OBTAINED A DEGREE IN DENTISTRY; HE HAS NOT, HOWEVER,
PRACTISED FOR MANY YEARS. HE WAS ACTIVE IN A REVOLUTIONARY
BLACK POWER MOVEMENT IN THE LATE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S
IN THE BROWN'S TOWN AREA. IN APRIL 1969, DUNCAN AND HIS
THEN-WIFE, JOAN, WERE ARRESTED AND FOUND GUILTY OF VIOLATING
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THE PROHIBITED PUBLICATIONS LAW.

3. IN APRIL 1972 DUNCAN BECAME AN ISLAND ORGANIZER FOR
MANLEY'S PEOPLE NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) AND PLAYED A KEY
ROLE IN THE 1972 LANDSLIDE VICTORY WHICH BROUGHT MICHAEL
MANLEY AND THE PNP TO OFFICE. HE PLAYED A SIMILAR ROLE
IN THE DECEMBER 1976 GENERAL ELECTIONS. EARLIER, IN

JUNE 1974, HE BECAME GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PNP --
AN OFFICE HE HOLDS TODAY.

4. IN DECEMBER 1976 DUNCAN WAS ELECTED TO THE JAMAICA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN JANUARY 1977 WAS
APPOINTED MINISTER OF NATIONAL MOBILIZATION BY THE PRIME
MINISTER.

5. DUNCAN HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE CUBANS SINCE
1966 AND AT LEAST THREE OF HIS CONTACTS IN THE CUBAN EMBASSY ARE
KNOWN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. HE TRAVELS FREQUENTLY TO HAVANA.

6. DUNCAN IS WITHOUT QUESTION THE BEST KNOWN AND MOST
INFLUENTIAL OF THE RADICAL LEFT OF THE PNP AND HAS
BEEN AN ACTIVE ENEMY OF THE UNITED STATES, E.G. HE
PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN ORCHESTRATING THE 1976 CAMPAIGN
AGAINST THE USG WHICH INVOLVED ALLEGATIONS OF
DESTABILIZATION BY THE U.S. OF JAMAICA, AND A VISIT
BY CIA DEFECTOR PHILIP AGEE TO JAMAICA.

7. WHILE NOT A COMMUNIST, MANY OF HIS ASSOCIATES ARE.
HE ALSO HAS REPORTEDLY SAID PRIVATELY THAT THE JAMAICAN
GOVERNMENT AND THE PNP HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO RESHAPE
THE JAMAICAN SOCIETY AND THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT
COMMUNISM IF SUCH WERE NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT
CHANGE. HE HAS PUBLICLY ARGUED THE MERITS OF A SINGLE
PARTY STATE.

8. DURING THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF 1977 HE WAS A PRIME
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MOVER IN THE RADICAL LEFT'S EFFORTS TO PRESS FOR OVER-
NIGHT RESTRUCTURING OF JAMAICAN SOCIETY BUT, WITH HIS
RADICAL ASSOCIATES, FELL INTO TEMPORARY DISFAVOR WHEN
EFFORTS TO PREPARE A "SOCIALIST" EMERGENCY PRODUCTION
PLAN FAILED. IN MARCH OF 1977 THE MODERATE WING OF THE
PNP GAINED ASCENDENCY, AN MANLEY'S SUPPPORT FOR A MORE
MODERATE APPROACH TO JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC CRISIS FOR AT
LEAST THE TIME BEING.

9. THE FOREGOING MAY HAVE ONLY BEEN A TACTICAL
DEFEAT FOR DUNCAN. FEW OBSERVERS HERE ARE PRESENTLY
PREPARED TO WRITE-OFF EITHER DUNCAN OR HIS RADICAL
PHILOSOPHY AS FUTURE POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES FOR JAMAICA.

10. DUNCAN MARRIED THE FORMER GRACE POWE IN DECEMBER
OF 1976. HE USUALLY WEARS DARK GLASSES, AN ABE LINCOLN
BEARD, AND A WOOL SKI CAP -- AN IDENTIFYING SYMBOL OF
"SUFFERERS" IN JAMAICA.

11. VIVIAN BLAKE, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. VIVIAN OSMOND SCOTT BLAKE WAS BORN ON MARCH 15, 1921, IN ST JAMES PARISH, JAMAICA, THE SON OF RUFUS A. BLAKE AND FLORENCE SCOTT. HE WAS EDUCATED AT CAMBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND WOLMER'S BOYS SCHOOL IN KINGSTON, AND AT GRAY'S INN, LONDON, WHERE HE BECAME A LAWYER IN 1948. BLAKE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE BOXING BOARD OF CONTROL, THE BAR DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE, AND THE SUPREME COURT LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

12. BLAKE HAS BEEN A PNP MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SINCE THE LATE 1960'S AND HAS BEEN A CABINET MINISTER SINCE 1972. HE BECAME MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. IN THE LATE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S HE WAS A MAJOR CANDIDATE FOR PNP LEADERSHIP BUT WAS EDGED OUT BY MICHAEL MANLEY
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IN 1972. THROUGHOUT HIS PUBLIC LIFE, BUT EXPECIALLY IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, HE HAS BEEN A KEY LEADER OF THE PNP'S MODERATE FACTION.

13. HE HAS TWO CHILDREN BY A RECENTLY DECEASED WIFE. HE RECENTLY REMARRIED.

14. CARMEN MCGREGOR, MINISTER OF STATE FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS. CARMEN MCGREGOR WAS BORN ABOUT 1933. FOR MANY YEARS SHE WAS A TEACHER. IN 1976 SHE WAS ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND BECAME, IN EARLY 1977, MINISTER OF STATE FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS. IN THE LATTER ROLE SHE REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. SHE IS NOT WELL KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, BUT IS CONSIDERED BY MANY JAMAICAN OBSERVERS TO BE A PNP RADICAL.
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